



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Public Instruction  
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

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\*\*\***NEWS RELEASE**\*\*\*

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## Three educators nominated for Presidential Teaching Awards

MADISON—"Teachers shape the future in their classrooms," said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster in announcing Wisconsin's 2008-09 nominees for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

"The quality of the teacher in the classroom is one of the most important school-based factors in student educational success," Burmaster said. "These three individuals know that their students are our future and give their all to teaching the next generation."

The 2008-09 Wisconsin mathematics finalists are **Rebecca Meyer**, third-grade teacher at Valley View Elementary School in Menomonee Falls, and **Cheryl Wozniak**, grade 1-5 mathematics support teacher at Richards Elementary School in Whitefish Bay. The science nominee is **Karen Nesbit**, kindergarten teacher at Pleasant View Elementary School in Franklin. The three were among those nominated for the Presidential Teaching Awards program by principals, teachers, students, parents, or members of the community.

Each nominee wrote an application that described their instructional program, content knowledge, use of assessments, and success at improving student achievement. The application also included a video of their classroom teaching, samples of student work, and a resume of their background and experience. A state selection committee scored applications using national criteria.

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, which coordinates the program in the state, has forwarded applications for Wisconsin's three elementary-level finalists to the national judging. The national selection panel may select one mathematics teacher and one science teacher from each state and four U.S. jurisdictions to receive Presidential Teaching Awards. Up to 108 recipients may be recognized in Washington, D.C., next spring. In addition to visiting the nation's capital for recognition week activities, each Presidential Teaching Award recipient receives \$10,000.

(more)

Wisconsin will recognize the state's three finalists at a Nov. 20 awards program in Madison. The trio will receive certificates for "Excellence in Teaching Mathematics and Science in Wisconsin" during the event.

"The Presidential Teaching Awards program is in its 25th year of recognizing individuals for outstanding achievement in mathematics and science education," Burmaster noted. "With this honor comes the responsibility of inspiring students and fellow educators to achieve excellence."

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching program alternates its recognition between elementary and seventh- through 12th-grade teachers. The program recognizes teachers for their contributions to teaching and learning and their ability to help students make progress in mathematics and science. Additionally, awardees serve as models for their colleagues, inspiration to their communities, and leaders in the improvement of mathematics and science education. Nominations for secondary-level teachers can be made through April 1, 2009, at the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching website <http://www.paemst.org/>.

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**NOTE:** This news release is available electronically at [http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2008\\_169.pdf](http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2008_169.pdf). Additional information about the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching is available at <http://www.paemst.org/>.